



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Northumberland Public Library

May—August 2025

Summer seemed like such a long time coming as we were planning for the 2025 Reading program and yet, here it is, right around the corner. In a few short weeks we will be launching the summer reading challenge for 2025, all the while planning programs for the end of the year. It's a cycle of learning that never gets old. Every day is different and every day comes with its own unique challenges. And, I love it!

This year is unique because we will be counting minutes read rather than books read. The hope is that each reader will read 300 minutes. If every student at NES reads 300 minutes that is 30,000 minutes, which is the goal the elementary school has set for the summer.

What happens if they reach their goal? Well, we will be offering a reading fair on the Tavern green September 12th, with food trucks, bounce houses, games and more. We are so excited to offer a huge end of summer celebration, all about reading.

So, get your reading logs out, or download the Beanstack app and get ready to Color Your World with all of the adventures you can have in the pages of a book!

Happy reading!

Jane

jblue@nplibraryva.org



Pocket Park Update



As of the writing of this newsletter, the plants are being delivered and much work will begin in the coming weeks. Over 175 plants will be delivered in the next 2 days. The water line has been installed for the irrigation system and work for that should begin around the 13th of May. Another exciting aspect of the park will be Wren's Story Walk. About 8 story panels will be installed along the walk with stories about Northumberland County, such as how Holly Graded and the Rosenwald schools got started. Did you know there was a meteor shower here in the 1800's? One of the panels will talk about what

an amazing sight that was to see. How did the waterman's boots become so popular, and who invented the crab cage? We are excited about this feature of the park and hope you will take the time, once the story panels are in place, to learn a little more about our history. There is more to come, so stay tuned or better yet, come over and walk the path; it's open to everyone!



Monthly Happenings at the Library

Computer Classes Every Monday 3-5 PM

No sign up required, bring your own computer or use one of ours, phone and iPad help too!
No class will be held on major holidays.
Questions? Contact Arthur Newman.



Make your **Genealogy Research Appointment** today. 30-minute appointments can be made with Andrea Trescott on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month or Friday afternoons from 1:30-4:30 PM. Call 804-580-5051 or email atrescott@nplibraryva.org for more information

Story Time! Every Tuesday morning at 10 AM.
Featuring stories, songs and crafts. **Hometown Heroes** each month.



Bibliomania Teen Book Club for grades 9-12. Come discuss your favorite books, and a group read now and then. The 1st Friday of the month 3:30 to 5:30, coffee, tea and snacks served.

Anime/Manga Club meets every 3rd Friday of the month 3:30-5:30 in the library meeting room.

Open to teens grades 9 – 12, it's a great way to

share a passion for Japanese, Korean, and Malaysian graphic

novels, animated series, and video games. 図書館でぜひ起こ

してね。



Summer Kicks off with a visit from Joey Hamilton and his side kick Snoozer at NPL. Are you ready?



Did you know reading 10 minutes a day helps your brain? Studies show that people who read live longer. People who read at least 30 minutes a day can lower their mortality rate by up to 20%.* So pick up a book and read this summer, not only will you help us reach our summer reading goal, but you will also win a ticket to the Summer Reading Fair and you might just live a little longer! *Social Science and Medicine, Yale University 2022



Download the Boundless app on our website. Come in to the library, let us know you did and you will be entered to win a prize box at the Summer Reading Fair donated by Joey and Snoozer.



WE NEED YOUR TALENT! SIGN UP TODAY!!



Exciting News from RAL Art Center! Check out the events at RAL plus come to our partner event on July 10th at 1:30 where you can learn to paint from a photo @ NPL.

The RAL Art Center, located at 19 N Main Street in Kilmarnock, is gearing up for an exciting 2025 filled with creative opportunities for all ages! You can visit in person or online at www.ralartcenter.com. We offer monthly exhibits, classes and smART Summer camp for kids. RAL Art Center is committed to bringing the joy of art to our community! For more information contact Averelle Dylan, smART Youth Program Manager @804.436.9309 (gallery) 301.674.3357(cell) or smartprogram@ralartcenter.com.

Color Your World at the Library!!

The grass is getting greener, the sun is shining down those brilliant yellow beams, making the world warmer, and the library is preparing once more for another wonderful Summer of Reading! That's right, Summer Reading is returning to the library with a magical new theme that plays on your imagination and creativity! Dust off your instruments, pull out your easels, brushes and paints, lace up those dancing shoes, and head on down to the library for our art-themed Summer Reading extravaganza!



Though the fun does not immediately start at the beginning of May that doesn't mean you can't get your practicing in now. Let those creative juices start flowing and prepare yourself for the official Summer Reading start date of May 21st! That gives you plenty of time to check-out some books on music, drawing, cooking, and other artistic hobbies you may practice or want to learn about. It also gives you plenty of time to enter some of your masterpieces into the community art gallery in the library. Whether that be to display your work,

or to enter into the two competitions we will be holding during the months of June and July. Please ask at the Front Desk for more details about our community art gallery and providing your wonderful pieces for display.

We, of course, will be delving into those hobbies here at the library with our art-themed Summer Reading Story Times and our alternating Thursday activities. Starting on Tuesday, May 27th, we will begin having art-themed Story Times for our children ages 0 to 5/6. We always welcome all ages to attend these Story Times, but our primary focus is on younger children. Each Tuesday, we will focus on a different aspect of art, making wonderful masterpieces after each Story Time.

The littles are not the only ones getting all the crafting fun. We will have programs for children 6/7 and up on alternating Thursdays starting at the beginning of June. These programs will allow the children to explore color, painting, fabric and fiber arts, and even cooking. We don't want to limit the possibilities of creativity by sticking with one particular artistic medium. We want everyone to be able to explore all artistic mediums.

June 12th from 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM we will be hosting a Color Fight event outside in the library's new park. We heavily encourage participants to wear clothes that they are comfortable with getting paint stains/color stains on. We also recommend wearing a white shirt for tie-dying as you participate in the Color Fight. It would be a great keepsake and memory from this year's Summer Reading. We can't wait to see all the colors fly and decorate our new park.

June 26th (1 PM – 3 PM), we will welcome fabric and fiber artist, Barbara Brecher, for a felted soap crafting event. We will learn how to make felted soaps and explore the wonders of fabric and fiber arts with a professional artist at the helm. What better way to learn about a new artistic medium than with a fun activity exploring it, guided by a master in the craft?

We don't just have one guest leading the charge. Moving away from June and into July, on July 10th from 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM, we will welcome Averelle Dylan from the Rappahannock Art League. She will be leading us in a painting class where we will transform beautiful photographs into masterpiece paintings. You can even display those paintings in our community art gallery in the library meeting room if you wish! (continued on page 5)





(Continued from page 4)

Finally, we will round out our creative explorations on July 17th (2 PM – 4 PM) with a cooking tea party. Come to the Tavern Meeting Building and learn to make a delicious pastry recipe. After baking up your sweets, enjoy them with a cup of your favorite fruit juice for a nice little tea party. What better way to round out the Thursday programs than with something sweet to eat?

Thursday programs at the library are wonderful, but performances are also a pleasant addition to the line-up. This summer we have three fantastic performers visiting our local YMCA to show us their art. On June 6th at 10 AM, we welcome Brightstar Theatre as they perform their rendition of Pinocchio and Robin

Hood. A blend of fairytales and artful acting will paint a lovely picture in your mind of the stories you know and love.

We can't stop there though. July 18th, starting at 10 AM, we will host a Taiko Drums performance at the YMCA. If you're unsure what a Taiko drum is, come and find out. See a live performance using these drums and you may even get a chance to play them.

Lastly, we simmer down with a lovely puppet show at the YMCA on August 1st, starting at 10:15 AM. Come see the creativity of a self-crafted puppet show from the puppets themselves to the stories being told. You don't want to miss something this original!

Of course, with all the activities going on, you might think we lost the plot of Summer Reading, the books! I assure you, we have not. Reading is still our top priority when it comes to Summer Reading. This year, we changed the game though. We have transformed our Summer Reading into a singular challenge for the entire family to participate in, a great way to get that inner family competition going. We also changed the script of logging. We have decided to log minutes read with a grand total of 600 minutes as your Summer Reading goal. 600 minutes may sound like a lot, but it really is only 10 hours. I see many of our readers doing that in a single week, so I look forward to handing out many Brag Tags this year.

That's right! Brag Tags will still be a prize for our younger readers in pre-school and elementary school. If our littlest readers prefer, we do have alternate prizes for them. However, Brag Tags are back, and for every one hour of reading you complete, one Brag Tag will be given. I hope to see all my Brag Tags gone by the end of the summer with how much reading you complete.

The prizes don't end there! We have upped our game at the library and decided to give you all an amazing treat! If you read 300 minutes, or 5 hours, you will be given a special Golden Ticket, giving you access to our Readers Fun Faire on September 12th. Read the full 600 minutes, or 10 hours, and you'll get a free meal coupon along with that Golden Ticket to use at the Fun Faire. So many prizes for everyone to enjoy! We hope to see you at the library, reading and exploring your creative side as we Color Our World!



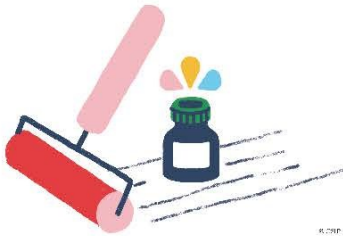
Check out our social media pages:

YouTube [@northumberlandpubliclibrary](https://www.youtube.com/northumberlandpubliclibrary)

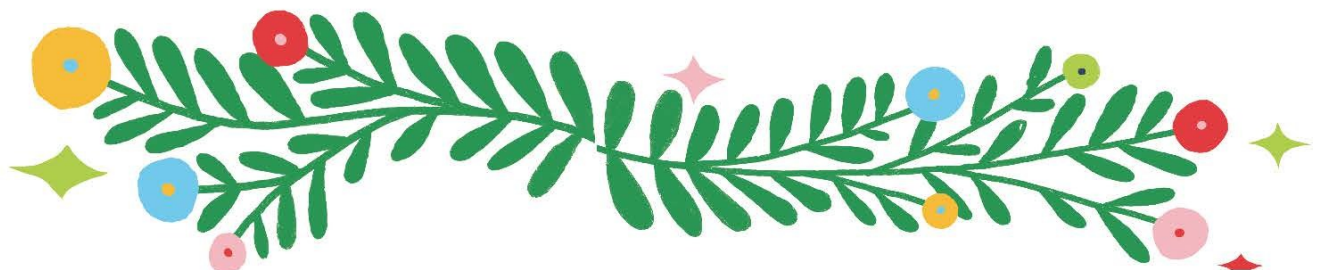
Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/northumberland.library/>,

Or like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/northumberlandlibrary>





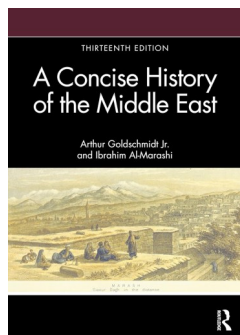
Event	Date & Time	Location	Age Range
Summer Reading Start	May 21	Library	All Ages
Anime/Manga Club	May 23 - 3:30 PM	Library	14 - 18
Artist Story Time	May 27 - 10 AM	Library	0 - 5/6
Painting Story Time	June 3 - 10 AM	Library	0 - 5/6
Brightstar Theatre	June 6 - 10 AM	YMCA	All Ages
Bibliomania Book Club	June 6 - 3:30 PM	Library	14 - 18
Photography Story Time	June 10 - 10 AM	Library	0 - 5/6
Color Fight	June 12 - 1:30 PM	Library Park	7 and Up
Drawing Story Time	June 17 - 10 AM	Library	0 - 5/6
Anime/Manga Club	June 20 - 3:30 PM	Library	14 - 18
Photo Competition Ends	June 20 - 5 PM	Library	All Ages
Writing Story Time	June 24 - 10 AM	Library	0 - 5/6
Felted Soap	June 26 - 1 PM	Library	7 and Up
Architecture Story Time	July 1 - 10 AM	Library	0 - 5/6
Music Story Time	July 8 - 10 AM	Library	0 - 5/6
Photo to Paint	July 10 - 1:30 PM	Library	6 and Up
Dancing Story Time	July 15 - 10 AM	Library	0 - 5/6
Art Competition Ends	July 18 - 5 PM	Library	All Ages
Taiko Drums	July 18 - 10 AM	YMCA	All Ages
Anime/Manga Club	July 18 - 3:30 PM	Library	14 - 18
Cooking Story Time	July 22 - 10 AM	Library	0 - 5/6
Cooking Tea Party	July 17 - 2 PM	Tavern Meeting Building	7 and Up
Creation Story Time	July 29 - 10 AM	Library	0 - 5/6
KD Puppet Show	Aug. 1 - 10:15 AM	YMCA	All Ages
Bibliomania Book Club	Aug. 1 - 3:30 PM	Library	14 - 18
Talent Show	Aug. 1 - 5 PM	Library	All Ages
End of Summer	Aug. 11	Library	All Ages





Keeping up with current events may be a challenge today but these selections might help you with some of the issues we see in our daily news feeds.

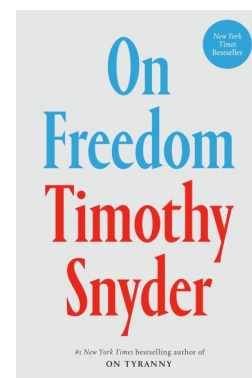
A Concise History of the Middle East by Ibrahim Al-Marashi and Arthur Goldschmidt Jr.



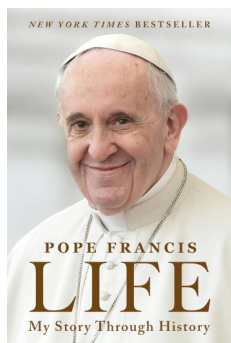
The Middle East, for a region so frequently discussed in the USA, is criminally misunderstood by the average American. Much of that misunderstanding stems from a lack of basic historical knowledge about the region and its various peoples. For those interested in redressing this deficiency, *A Concise History of the Middle East* is a fine place to begin that journey. This work is very nearly a college textbook, but written by just two people. It covers a staggering volume of time and space, and, given its breadth, leaves relatively little untreated. Those already familiar with the basic timeline of the Middle East may feel that this work lacks depth, but they are not its target audience. This is a book for beginners in the historical discipline, and if that's you, I can easily recommend this book.

On Freedom by Timothy Snyder

Freedom is a word that gets tossed around a lot in the USA, and it always has been. It is arguably the defining characteristic of American life and culture, or at least we seem to feel that way. Still, for all its importance, and for all our insistence that we've got it, very few people can provide a clear, satisfying definition of what freedom really is. *On Freedom* proposes to do just that. It paints a clear picture of freedom as both an ethical value in itself, and a source, or enabler, of all other ethical values. It describes freedom as not merely the absence of oppression, but as something actively generated and refined by society, affected by every decision it makes and action it takes. It also points out that, somewhere along the line, society may have forgotten this and acquired the sense that freedom is something inherent in nature, or granted to others by those with power. If you fancy a reassessment or re-definition of one of the most important concepts in American culture, *On Freedom* is the book for you.



Life: My Story Through History by Pope Francis



Pope Francis, born Jorge Mario Bergoglio, passed away on April 21, 2025 at the age of 88. The Papacy, and by extension the Catholic Church, has had an awkward relationship with the United States. As a largely protestant nation, many Americans were distrustful of, even openly hostile towards, the Catholic Pope. However, during his papacy, Pope Francis seems to have bridged the divide somewhat. Even outside of Catholic circles, both here and abroad, many people found Pope Francis to be a laudable source of moral authority. His influence on the modern Catholic thought, the full extent of which we cannot yet know, portends great significance. For this reason alone, Pope Francis' life and his beliefs are worth studying. And who better to tell the tale than the man himself? *Life* takes its reader from the future Pope's childhood in Argentina at the onset of World War II, to the height of his papacy at the close of the COVID-19 pandemic, and provides fascinating insight into the mind of one of the world's most influential figures.



WE NEED YOUR ART!!

NORTHUMBERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
ART GALLERY
FROM JUNE THROUGH AUGUST

PIECES CAN BE DROPPED OFF STARTING MAY 19TH!!

SHOWCASE YOUR ART AT NORTHUMBERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY ART, FOR OUR NON-JURIED DISPLAY. NO AGE RESTRICTIONS: ALL ART MEDIUMS WELCOME. YOUR ART WILL BE ON DISPLAY UNTIL AUGUST 8TH.

QUESTIONS: CALL 804-580-5051 OR EMAIL NCARRINGTON@NPLIBRARYVA.ORG

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 HEATHSVILLE, VA 22473

NORTHUMBERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

PHOTO CONTEST

Prizes for Best in Show, People's Choice, and Staff's Choice.

AWARDS AND RECEPTION
JUNE 20 @ 5 PM - 6 PM

PIECES MUST BE DROPPED OFF BY MAY 19TH!!

- All entries must be neatly printed and ready for hanging.
- Include your name, age, and the title of your piece.
- Return your signed Liability Waiver.
- **Only three submissions per person!**

The contest will have three brackets dependent on age. 5 - 12, 13 - 17, and 18+. Be aware that you will be judged among your peers in your age bracket.

Questions: Call 804-580-5051 or Email NCARRINGTON@NPLIBRARYVA.ORG

7204 NORTHUMBERLAND HWY.
 HEATHSVILLE, VA 22473

Northumberland Public Library

NORTHUMBERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

ART SHOW

AWARDS AND RECEPTION
JULY 18 @ 5 PM - 6 PM

PIECES MUST BE DROPPED OFF ON JUNE 18

Prizes for Best in Show, People's Choice, and Staff's Choice.

- All entries must be ready for hanging.
- Include your name, age, and the title of your piece.
- Return your signed Liability Waiver.
- **Only one submission per person.**

The contest will have three brackets dependent on age. 5 - 12, 13 - 17, and 18+. Be aware that you will be judged among your peers in your age bracket.

Questions: Call 804-580-5051 or Email NCARRINGTON@NPLIBRARYVA.ORG

7204 Northumberland Hwy
 Heathsville, VA 22473

Northumberland Public Library

Drop off your art and photographs any time between May 19th and the end of the first contest date June 19th.

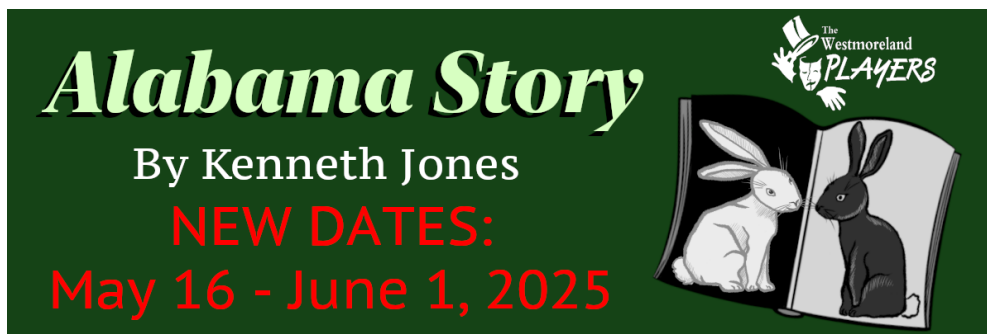
Just want to show and not enter the competitions, no problem, we would love to display all of the talent we have in Northumberland County.

Be sure to enter the Talent Contest on August 1st! Do you sing, dance, act or just recite poetry, sign up now!



NPL News Group

The NPL News group will meet on May 30th, June 27th and July 25th. This group is one of a kind and delivers news relevant to the world and our county. Have a flare for delivering the latest updates? Interested in news anchor work? Join us at NPL 3 - 5:30, for our news group! Help deliver the news about what is happening in the area, in the country, and even the world! Open to teens ages 12 - 18! Snacks and drinks included!!



The Westmoreland Players Theatre, located in Callao, is offering a \$10 discount to patrons of the Northumberland Public Library for tickets to the upcoming production of "Alabama Story," by Kenneth Jones, playing from May 16 through June 1. This offer is being made to library patrons in recognition of the play's themes about libraries and the freedom to read.

"Alabama Story" is a play based on a true-life incident that took place in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1959. It is the story of Emily Wheelock Reed, who was the head of the Alabama State Public Library Service. Miss Reed was attacked by a segregationist Alabama State Senator for promoting a children's book called "The Rabbits' Wedding," that the senator claimed carried hidden integrationist messages. It is also the story of childhood friends - an African American man and a woman of white privilege - who are reunited as adults in Montgomery by happenstance at the same time the book controversy is unfolding around them. It is a courtroom thriller, a memory play, a romance, and a historical drama. Above all it is about how character is tested in a time of great social change.

The Westmoreland Players Theatre serves the entire Northern Neck. The theatre has repeatedly been named as the Best Performing Arts Company in Eastern Virginia by Virginia Living Magazine.

Tickets may be purchased at <https://www.westmorelandplayers.org/tickets>. Tickets are normally \$25 for adults and \$17 for students. However, Northumberland County Public Library patrons may obtain a \$10 discount for each ticket purchased by entering the payment code "NPL" when prompted. This discount is available to the first 200 library patrons who purchase tickets for any performance other than the opening night gala on May 16. Patrons are urged to purchase tickets early to ensure you get the performance and seat assignment you prefer.

[In addition, The Westmoreland Players have stated they will make a \$5 donation to the Northumberland Public Library for each ticket sold through this promotion.]

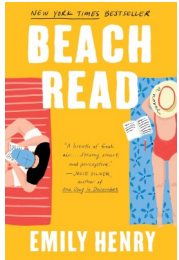


Be Summer Ready with these Beach Reads!

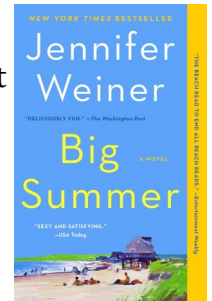
By Savannah Albrecht

Summer is the best time to go out and soak up all the sun you didn't get in the cold months, enjoy the fresh air, and listen to the birds sing, all while you sit in the warm sand with a fun book! Here are some books we think will add to your summer vibe!

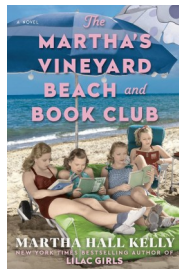
Beach Read, by Emily Henry, is obviously the best beach read to read while on the beach! With Emily's witty banter and her way of bringing you into the romance, you will fall in love with the characters as they fall in love with each other. Augustus Everett is an acclaimed author of literary fiction. January Andrews writes best-selling romance. Where she pens a happily ever after, he kills off his entire cast. They're polar opposites. The only thing they have in common is that for the next three months, they're living in neighboring beach houses, broke, and bogged down with writer's block. Until, one hazy evening, one thing leads to another, and they strike a deal designed to force them out of their creative ruts!



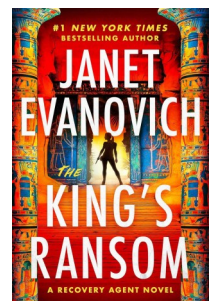
Big Summer, by Jennifer Weiner, is a little bit of everything, like summer itself. You get mystery, drama, love, and humor in this little but big book! Six years after the fight that ended their friendship, Daphne Berg is shocked when Drue Cavanaugh walks back into her life, looking as lovely and successful as ever, and with a massive favor to ask. Daphne hasn't spoken one word to Drue in all this time -- she doesn't even hate-follow her ex-best friend on social media -- so when Drue asks if she will be her maid of honor at the society wedding of the summer, Daphne is rightfully speechless.



The Martha's Vineyard Beach & Book Club, by Martha Hall Kelly. The summer time is a great time for new beginnings, but also a great time to look back at the past. Coming out in May as a feel good historical fiction, The Martha's Vineyard Beach & Book Club follows two sisters living on Martha's Vineyard during World War II. The sisters find hope in the power of storytelling when they start a wartime book club for women in this spectacular novel inspired by true events. (publication date May 27th, 2025)



The Kings Ransom, by Janet Evanovich. Summer is also the time to have big adventures, and coming out in June is the thriller and mystery of the summer! Gabriela Rose, recovery agent extraordinaire, can find just about anything. Too bad she can't seem to lose her gorgeous-but-infuriating ex-husband Rafer Jones. And now he needs her help. His cousin, Harley, is in trouble...big trouble. As the president of a too-big-to-fail bank, he invested an astronomical amount of money in insuring some of the world's most priceless artifacts at the urging of his board. It seemed like a low-risk, high-reward business move, so he jumped in with both feet, but recently, these insured pieces started going missing and worse, there's no paper trail of Harley being directed to make these risky investments. Unless the artwork can be recovered soon, it looks like Harley is going to be heading to jail as the fall guy for an ingenious crime.



TECH NEWS

By Arthur S. Newman

Make sure to Buckle Up Your Tech!



Please buckle up your laptop and secure your other tech devices.

Summer is not just about rays of sun and pesky bugs, it is vacation time.

Although we may venture to places unknown, the temptation to stowaway our tech devices is certain. When we bring along our faithful traveling companions, which may or may not include humans, we do well to consider certain precautions.

We may plan on exercising our right to have a vacation free from work but not free from the cyber

threats that encroach upon our personal data, identity and money. One thing is for sure, the environment for safely transporting your technology has changed. Also, we should consider the usage of our devices and the internet while vacationing. The cyber threat is even more pronounced when we are away from our home and office.

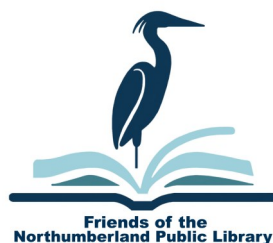
Here are some safety tips you should adopt even before you leave your house.

1. Update and backup your devices and secure your data.
2. Only take what is necessary.
3. Secure your devices physically, for instance, waterproofing, body gloves, screen protectors.
4. Password-protect all devices and turn on two factor authentication.
5. Turn on location detection, or find my device software.
6. Consider GPS tracking devices.
7. Only tell trusted individuals your itinerary.
8. Do not post on social media.
9. Secure your home with cameras or an alarm system. Hire a house sitter. Or let the annoying and noisy neighbor know you will be on vacation.

Now you are ready to fly.

1. Don't forget about airplane mode.
2. When you arrive at your destination, confirm all networks are secure.
3. Do not use local Wi-Fi connections that are not password secure. Even if they are secure, use these connections with an alert mind.
4. Use software like task manager to monitor network traffic.
5. Use a trusted VPN service. (**Do Not** overpay for this service).
6. Don't leave your devices unattended.
7. Regularly check for foreign tracking devices.

For a technical deep dive into any of the suggestions above, please ask. We are eager to explain.
Happy Vacationing



The Friends of the Library

We have had a busy spring! This year started out with a special Books Alive! featuring new author William Matthew Ruberry. It was a great turn out, and we enjoyed getting to know Bill. You can check out a copy of his book "Harmony in Black and White" at the library. The highlight of our spring was our first annual Magic and Madness of March Cocktail party and Silent Auction. The event hosted at Mt. Zion Mansion boasted a sell out



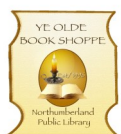
crowd, wonderful food catered by Excellent Eats, wine from Triple V Farms and Beer from Callao Brewing. The silent auction items, donated by local businesses and others included beautiful art, stained glass, jewelry and more. The entire event raised over \$6500 which will go toward the programs the Friends sponsor at the library, outside of the normal operating budget such as summer reading special events and artists, as well as our Books Alive!, Arts Alive! and History Alive! programs.

We also had the privilege of providing the books to the middle school for the One School/One Book program which was chosen by the students this year. A copy of "Diary of a Wimpy Kid A Hot Mess" went to every student and teacher. We presented the books to the 8th grade English class, teacher Mrs. Lee and Principal Shelli Lipton on March 16th. The students spent a week reading the book together and celebrated with a spaghetti dinner, central to the theme of the book.



Coming up are various events related to summer reading, so now is the time we take a minute to plan for fall and help with the events at the library. At the writing of this article we are planning to hear about the Holly Graded School at a History Alive! event with guest speaker Garfield Parker. Other upcoming events we will be helping at will be the Summer Reading Fair on September 12th.

We recently sent our membership letter out and hope you will consider becoming a member of the Friends. For Benefactors the dues are \$100 annually, Individual membership is \$20 and Family members is \$35. For more information visit our Facebook page or email us @ library@nplibraryva.org.



Ye Olde Book Shoppe News

Ye Old Book Shoppe continues to support the library and community in so many ways. We take your donations of new and gently used books and in turn they are bought by a new reader to enjoy. Hardcover books sell for \$4.00 and oversized paperback are just \$2.00. Trade paperbacks or mass market paperbacks, as some call them, are currently 5 for \$1.00. The month of May we are honoring our teachers with "a fill a bag for \$5 sale", and these are not just little plastic grocery store bags but big paper bags! Come in and show us this article or bring a flier and take advantage of this sale.



Fortunately, all of those who staff the book shoppe are volunteers. We are in need of more volunteers, especially on Friday and Saturday, so if you are interested please contact Jane or Arthur at the Library. The shoppe is open Wednesday through Friday from 10-4 and Saturday from 10-2. Come on in and browse a while, or join the Philosophers who meet at the shoppe on Fridays for a lively discussion.



Let's Talk beanstack

By: Cate Land

Summer Reading is just around the corner and we are finishing up our preparations for another fun filled program. Registration cards will be available at the front desk to register for the Summer Reading Challenge starting May 21st. Parents, keep an eye out in your child's backpack. The registration card and Summer Reading Program will go home with your child after the Summer Reading Kick Off May 9th. You can fill out the card and bring it to the library to register or sign up with the digital option on the back of the card and keep up with your Reading Log digitally from your Android or Apple device or computer.

First you will need to scan the QR code with your phone or use the link: <https://nplibraryva.beanstack.com/reader365> Or download the Beanstack Tracker app on Google Play or the App Store.

Once you have downloaded the app and/or opened the link you will be taken to our Northumberland Public Library homepage on Beanstack and you will have to create an account for yourself and however many readers on your account through the Library. Parents, you will also be able to indicate if your child will be participating in YMCA Summer Camp, or Boys & Girls Club Summer Camp. This helps us be sure that your child is getting all the minutes they have read if they are also participating in either of those programs. From here you will be able to register for any current or upcoming challenges. More on those below.



Logging with Beanstack has never been easier. When you are ready to log your reading, press the Plus sign or Log Reading button. You will then be asked, who do you want to log? Choose the readers you need to log reading to. Choose the logging minutes option. Here you fill in the fields for the Day, Title (optional), Author (optional), and Time Spent Reading. Once you have filled in the fields, press Log. When a section of the Reading Challenge and/or the Reading Challenge is completed, Beanstack will prompt you with a digital badge. The digital badges will have some instructions and an award attached. (For example, when you read the first 60 minutes, your first badge will be awarded with a prompt to tell you to come by the Library to pick up a Brag Tag)



(Continued on page 11)



We also have our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Challenge running on Beanstack for children age 0-5 and not yet in Kindergarten. This remains ongoing for parents and grandparents who want to sign up their child or grandchild to read 1000 books to them before they go to Kindergarten.

Color Our World Summer Reading Challenge For All Ages May 21st - August 9th

Preregistration is open for the Color Our World Summer Reading Challenge. All ages are welcome. We are changing things up this year. You will be logging minutes spent reading with a goal of 600 minutes. Every minute spent reading counts towards the Northumberland Elementary School goal of 30,000 minutes. Readers will earn a Brag Tag* for every 60 minutes read to get a total of 10 Brag Tags.

While 600 minutes may seem like a lot, if you read for 20 minutes a day for 5 days that is 100 minutes already.

But wait, there is more! We have some new exciting news! We will be having a Readers

Fun Fair, a Celebration of Color Our World, September 12th. We are going to sweeten the challenge even more! Readers who complete 300 minutes will earn a Most Valuable Reader Golden Ticket to the Readers Fun Fair. Readers who complete the full 600 minutes will also earn an Exceptional Reader Meal Ticket to use at the fair. Thank you for reading with us this Summer!



*For parents of children under 5, if the Brag Tag does not seem a suitable prize for your little one, we do offer alternate prizes. Also, one other little tip for parents, if your child

signed up for this Reading Challenge and 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, Beanstack will log the books read in both challenges for you.



Book Drops Throughout Northumberland County



Did you know there are various book drops throughout the county? You can drop your books in one of these book drops any time and we will pick them up.

On the north side of the county in Callao at Tootsies Diner. Books are picked up from this location on Monday mornings.

In the middle of the county, you can drop your books at Lilian Retail Store. The book drop is located in the back of the store close to the restrooms. This book drop is checked on Tuesday mornings.

On the west side of the county, you can find a book drop at the Wicomico Church Post Office, inside. Just take a right inside the doors and you will see the book drop on the floor to the right. This book drop is checked on Saturdays and sometimes Sunday.

As always we have a very convenient book drop right in front of the Library, it is checked twice a day, morning and night. You can drop your books in this book drop any time we are closed. But, when we are open try to bring them inside, so we can say hello.

Get to know your Library Staff:

Jane Blue: Library Director

Cate Land: Customer Service Supervisor

Arthur S. Newman: Community Outreach Supervisor

Nicole Carrington: Children & Youth Services Coordinator/Outreach Assistant

Maddie Jones: Children's Program Assistant

Andrea Trescott: Library Clerk

Savannah Albrecht: Library Clerk/Cataloger

Josh Shipman: Library Clerk

Terrie Balsbaugh: Library Clerk

Gay Posey: Library Clerk

Kathy Lewis: Bookkeeper



7204 Northumberland Hwy
Heathsville, VA 22473

Email us at: Library@nplibraryva.org

Where in the county is the Mobile Library?

You can find us at:



The Irvington Farmer's market. 1st Saturday of the month from 9-1, April through October.

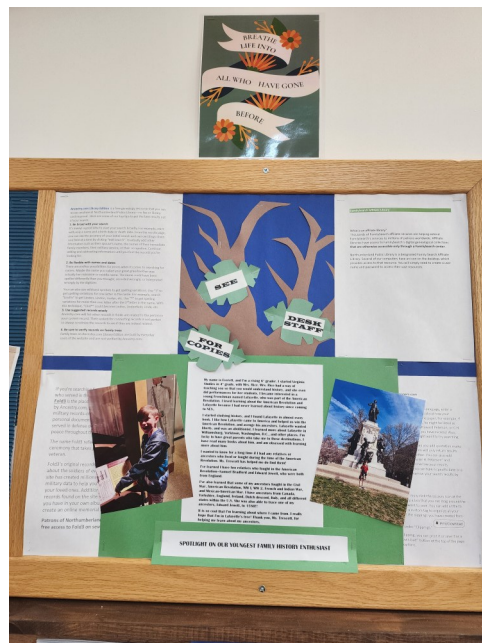
The Heathsville Farmer's market. 3rd Saturday of the month from 9-1, April through November.

Reedville, parked right on Main Street. 4th Thursday of the month

from 1-4. Even in the rain.

Gleamers and Blenders: 2nd and 4th Thursday 9:30-12

Look for us at other special events throughout the county. Want us to visit your location or deliver books? Let us know, we are always happy to add other stops or events or **deliver books to someone who needs that service.**



Check out our Genealogy Board, every month we will feature a new search and tips and tricks on how you can search, make an appointment with Andrea to learn more!

WATERMEN'S Boots in Northumberland County Campaign

Interested? Ask for a brochure at the front desk or email jblue@nplibraryva.org

YES! I want to promote regional pride and honor the men and women who work the water.

SIGN ME UP FOR A PAIR OF BOOTS.

Business _____

Contact _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Physical address where boots will be installed

☐ **Buy a Pair- \$2,500**

Buy a pair of boots and display them at a fixed location until October 1, 2026. After that date you may move them to a location of your choice.

☐ **Be a "Good Guy"- \$2,500**

Buy a pair of boots and donate them to a local community organization or school to decorate and display.

Payment Enclosed \$ _____

\$1,000 is due at the time of commitment, the balance will be due June 6, 2025.
Payment in full is greatly appreciated.

Please make your check payable to the Northumberland Public Library and send to:
Watermen's Way Project | Northumberland Public Library
7204 Northumberland Hwy | Heathsville, VA 22473

For Internal use only:	Amount \$ _____
Date Received _____	Invoice # _____

For more information contact:

Jane Blue, Director | Northumberland Public Library | 804-580-5051 | jblue@nplibraryva.org



Northumberland Public Library
7204 Northumberland Hwy | Heathsville, VA 22473



Noblett Appliance, Kilmarnock



Burkes Fine Jewelry, Kilmarnock



Steamboat Era Museum, Irvington



Town of Kilmarnock, Town Park

Meet Your
Boots!



Let's Expand Watermen's Way
Help Honor Northern Neck Watermen and Waterwomen

Take-And-Make Bags

Come pick-up a take- and-
make bag full of fun crafts
you can do at home! Available
June 1st through August 11th

Make Art at Story Time!

Starting May 27th, join us for special Art
Themed Story Times with crafts
and fun for all ages!!

